UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Volume 7 • Number 2 March/April 2001

June Event to Target Children's Issues

State agency policymakers, advocacy groups, providers and parent advocates of children's services will gather in Nashville on Friday June 15 for "A Conversation with Policymakers, From TennCare Policy to Programs: What is Working in Tennessee."

To be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on West End Avenue, primary sponsors include the TennCare for Children Program, Early Child Health Outreach Program, Child and Family Policy Center at Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies and Head Start State Collaboration Office.

Attendees will hear about the current state of TennCare for children and join in two of the following break-out panels and discussions:

- School-based Approaches to Health Care
- Coordination of Education and Outreach about EPSDT
- Enrollment- Reaching Non-English speaking Families
- Coordinator of Care between Physical and Mental Health

There is no charge for the event, but registration is limited. For more information call (615) 322-8505.



Advocates for additional housing for persons with mental illness gathered in Nashville for a press conference to help launch \$4.5 million in housing grants.

DMHDD/THDA Award Housing Grants

DMHDD Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser and THDA Executive Director Janice Myrick announced in February that \$4.5 million was being awarded to provide housing for people with mental illness. The announcement was made at a joint press conference February 21 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville.

The grants are the result of the Creating

Homes Initiative (CHI), spearheaded by the DMHDD Office of Housing Planning and Development. CHI proposes to create 2005 new permanent housing options statewide by the year 2005.

CHI grants were awarded in Nashville, Memphis, Jackson and Chattanooga. Grantees include:

Mental Health Matters Featured on TRN's Web Site

The issues facing the people of Tennessee are many. The answers are not simple. The Tennessee Radio Network brings the facts to the forefront not only in their statewide broadcast feeds to a bevy of stations, but also on their web site.

One segment is designed to increase public awareness about mental health issues. The DMHDD hosts *Mental Health Matters*, a 10-minute segment, which focuses on communicating the message that it's okay to seek mental health treatment and directs people where to get information.

The show is directed by DMHDD Medical Director Judy Regan, M.D., M.B.A. and moderated by Martha Robinson, M.B.A., director of the Office Public Information and

Education.

"The answers we need to face the key issues of the day don't always fit our newscasts," says Melissa McDonald, TRN news director.

"Tennessee Matters is designed to answer who, what, when, where and why in a more comprehensive fashion. It is another way that we can help the people of Tennessee understand the changing world that is coming increasingly close to home."

You can hear *Tennessee Matters* anytime on the TRN website, www.tennessee.com. For Mental Health Matters, go to the website's Health Center. Mental Health Matters is also available at the DMHDD website at www.state.tn.us/mental.

Nashville

Park Center	\$404,928
Foundations	281,312
Successful Survivors	172,100
Centerstone	30,500
Urban Housing	•
Solutions	700,000
	,

Memphis

Southeast Mental Health Center	\$323,171
Helping CDC	100,000
Foundations	877,206

Chattanooga

A.I.M. Center\$323,000

Jackson

Behavioral Health

Initiatives.....\$1,091,453

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Update

of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

(ISSN-10882731)

Volume 7, Number 2

State of Tennessee Don Sundquist, Governor



Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities 3rd Floor, Cordell Hull Building Nashville, TN 37243 615-532-6500 www.state.tn.us/mental

Elisabeth Rukeyser, Commissioner
Ben Dishman, Deputy Commissioner
Melanie Hampton, Asst. Commissioner
Mental Health Services
Barbara Brent, Deputy Commissioner
Mental Retardation Services
Mack Rhea, Director, Division of
Administrative Services

Prepared and distributed by the Office of Public Information Education (615) 532-6610 - FAX (615) 741-4557 Martha Robinson, Director Patricia Fortner, Editor Carol Smith, Associate Editor Linny Parker, Circulation

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Published bi-monthly by the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville, Tennessee Postmaster: Send address changes to Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Office of Public Information and Education 11th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower 710 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243



Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Authorization Number 339285, 10,000 copies, September 2000. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.22 per copy.

Around the State

Ray Sinor Wins NAMI Award

Ray Sinor, former president of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill/Tennessee, will be awarded the national organization's coveted Outstanding NAMI Member award this summer.

Sinor was selected for



the honor by the national NAMI Board of Directors because of more than 20 years of "work to improve community-based care for persons with serious and persistent mental illness."

Jackie Shannon, NAMI board president, said Sinor's service on both the national and state levels has been invaluable. His "personal approach to helping those whom NAMI strives to serve, sometimes even giving shelter and care to homeless people in his home were especially noted."

The award will be presented at the 2001 Annual Convention scheduled July 11-15 at the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel in Washington D.C.

Focus of Children's Mental Health Week — Green Ribbons, Zoo Trips, Depression Screenings

Tennessee Voices for Children (TVC) kicked off Children's Mental Health Week in May by distributing green ribbons for people to wear throughout the Month of May and offering free depression screenings.

The TVC adopted wearing green ribbons as a way to take positive action and bring awareness to children's mental health issues. "Green signifies new life, new growth, and new beginnings," said a spokesperson for the organization.

On May 8, National Childhood Depression Screening Day, professionals were at strategic locations across Tennessee to offer consultation to parents.

Experts say that one in five children has a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder. But 70 percent of these children do not receive appropriate mental health services.

A special "Children's Mental Health Week Celebration" was part of the festivities at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere.

The event is staged annually to raise awareness of children's mental health issues. The theme for the 2001 event was "Embracing the Differences." Its purpose was to promote positive acceptance of individual uniqueness.

Activities included birdhouse building, flower plantings, face painting and all kinds of entertainment.

Sundquist Requests Medicaid Reform at Governor's Conference

Governor Don Sundquist and Governor Howard Dean of Vermont joined forces in February to request the National Governors Association (NGA) to support a plan for Medicaid reform.

The proposal, developed by a bipartisan task force led by the two governors, would make additional optional programs for the uninsured a more realistic possibility for many states. Such programs would enable states to be more creative in broadening health care coverage through public and private markets.

The premise calls for crafting governmentsponsored insurance polices on the state level and creating programs that operate more like private insurance or that bolster employer-based insurance.

Special Olympics, Douglas Cooperative Benefit from Knights of Columbus Drive

In January, the Knights of Columbus Council 8414 presented the Sevier County Special Olympics and The Douglas Cooperative, Inc. with approximately to \$15,000 each.

The monies resulted from the council's efforts at the Annual Knights of Columbus Mentally Handicapped Drive held in October of last year. It was augmented by a \$500 donation from Wal Mart.

The funds are used to support the various programs each organization offers persons with developmental disabilities.

Bristol Center Bridges the Gap for Older Adults

The Bristol Regional Mental Health Center of Frontier Health recently established *Bridging* the Gap: A Mental Wellness Program for Older Adults.

Clinical staff member Jill Wishart said, "Typically the older population (age 55 and up) does not access mental health services through mental health professionals.

"They are from a generation where stigma often prevents persons from acknowledging mental health concerns, yet quality mental health care can positively impact their lives."

In addition to removing the stigma associated with mental illness through education, the program also identifies and treats seniors who are in need of mental health services and may otherwise go untreated.

The program is funded through a DMHDD grant.

Around the State

Quinco Names Three to Board

Quinco Mental Health Center in Bolivar recently named three members to its board of directors. They are Regina East, Gayle Brooks and Bobby Hysmith.

Brooks is director of the Chester County Schools Food Services program. East chairs the board for the Chester County Bank. And a former sales manager for Continental Baking Company, Hysmith is a Chester County commissioner.

Knoxville's Haslam Center Awarded Comcast Grant

The Comcast Foundation has awarded the Haslam Center, a psychiatric facility for youths, \$20,000 to develop a computer lab.

The grant is used to fund a vocational classroom/communications lab equipped with computers and software, which enables the children to learn basic business skills.

The goal is to teach data entry or information assessment through the Internet to approximately 70 students between the ages of 11 and 18.

Prior to the Comcast grant, the Haslam Center had only three computers in its library. The funds will also enable the program to purchase training materials covering other vocational and business skills.

Founded in 1989, the Haslam Center provides adolescents alternatives to psychiatric hospitalization. The youth have very special needs. Some are dually diagnosed with retardation or psychiatric issues. Some are victims of sexual abuse or are sexual offenders.

TCCY Honors Child Advocates

In March, members of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth honored three individuals for special services to youths during Child Advocacy Days.

Merrill Harris was recognized with the *Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award*. Harris, a DeKalb County preschool teacher, has adopted five children with special needs.

The Making Kids Count Media Award (small market) went to Becky Magura, station manager of WCTE-TV in Cookeville.

Jamie Satterfield , a Knoxville News Sentinel staff writer, was awarded the Making Kids Count Media Award for large markets.

Fredrick Harris of Nashville, a Department of Children's Services case manager, was honored with the *Youth Excellence Award*. Harris currently works with children in state custody who are in group homes and residential facilities.



Pictured at the Psychiatry for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Conference are (from left) Judy Regan M.D., DMHDD medical director; George Paz, M.D. from the University Medical Center/McFarland Speciality Campus; and Ben Dishman, DMHDD deputy commissioner who gave welcoming remarks. Held March 9 in Nashville, the event was targeted to psychiatrists, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, primary care physicians, pediatricians and neurologists. Sponsored by University Medical Center/McFarland Specialty Campus, Advocare, the DMHDD and Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, the conference also featured Susan Vaught, Ph.D.; Anadot Hayes, M.D.; Richard Thompson Jr., M.D. and Jeri Fitzpatrick, M.D.

CBDC Developmental Technician Named DMHDD Employee of the Year, 2000

The awards were presented in Nashville. Malcolm Lake, a Clover Bottom
Developmental Center employee since 1995, has been named the DMHDD Employee of the Year, 2000.

Lake, a developmental technician, who is responsible for the direct care of 23 young men residing in the CBDC Spruce living facility, was chosen for the honor from more than 6,000 people employed in departmental operated facilities and the central office.

Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser said Lake was chosen for the honor only after serious consideration was given nominees submitted by the facilities and by the Central Office.

"Dedication and the perseverance with which assigned duties are completed shows loyalty and pride in employment. Lake demonstrates that," she said.

Lake will be recognized in special ceremonies later in the year. Employee of the Year winners, representing each of the state facilities and the Central Office, include:

- Julie H. Gullett, psychiatric technician, Lakeshore Mental Health Institute
- Kathy Williamson, medical records technician, Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute
- Udell Jones, psychiatric technician, Western Mental Health Institute
- Leonard Krzewinski, vehicle operator, Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute
- Brenda Hughes, pharmacy technician, Memphis Mental Health Institute

- Nadine Hussey, stores manager, Arlington Developmental Center
- Malcolm Elexsis Lake, developmental technician, Clover Bottom Developmental Center
- Larry Henderson, developmental technician, Greene Valley Developmental Center
- Ellen Roberts, data processing II, Central Office

Peter Frampton, Family Spread the RIP Message

In March, public service announcements began in Nashville featuring 1970s rock star Peter Frampton and his wife, Tina.

RIP Coordinator Kate Kanies said the 30-second announcement was broadcast by Nashville outlet, WKRN-TV and carried into the mid-state region and parts of Kentucky and Alabama.

Channel 2 provided RIP with copies of the production, which were distributed to other RIP expansion programs for broadcast locally.

Kanies expressed excitement because all expenses incurred by the project were donated.

"Our estimate of the total is approximately \$1,000 per second, or about \$30,000 of donated talent, space, equipment, and services to make this happen.

RIP has many friends who recognize an important service for families," she said.



Chattanooga Press Conference (from left)—Janice Myrick, executive director of THDA; Bonnie Currey, executive director, A.I.M. Center; director of THDA; assistant commissioner, Mental Health Services, DMHDD; Melanie Hampson, assistant commissioner, Mental Health Services, DMHDD; and Marie Williams, director, Housing Planning and Development, DMHDD.



Speakers: Left—Representative John Arriola addresses the group at the at statewide launch of the Housing Grants.

Nashville welcomes the group to the statewide launch.



Communities Creating Housing Options for Individuals with Mental Illness Effectively and Strategically in Tennessee



Memphis Press Conference—(from left) are Michael Cartwright, executive director, Foundations Associates; Jane Boles, director of Community Programs, THDA; Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser; Representative Kathryn Bowers; and Debbie Follis of Foundations.

2005 BY 2005

Jackson Press
Conference—from left
are Dr. Jim Causey,
executive director of
Behavioral Health
Initiative (BHI),
THDA's director of
Community Programs
Jane Boles and
DMHDD
Commissioner
Rukeyser.







Nashville Grant Recipient Pastor N. Curtis Bryant, of Successful Survivors, receives check from Marie Williams.





GVDC "Giving Tree" Branches Reach to the Future

In the beginning, it was just an idea. In 1999, a young family living in Greene County was in need at Christmas time.

The Volunteer Services Department at Greene Valley Developmental Center decided to help.

The call went out to employees and their response was overwhelming. This response spawned the idea that the Greene Valley family of employees and volunteers could bring joy to children who live in the area with special gifts.

Advice was sought from several agencies. The Department of Human Services was contacted and they connected developmental center staff with the Department of Children's Services (DCS). DCS staff were enthusiastic. The foster children in their care would now have a brighter Christmas.

The next question was how to go about dispensing the gifts. A Giving Tree was suggested and adopted as the right approach.

Soon, the tree was displayed in the lobby of the John M. Jones Administration Building, its branches filled with ornaments, each containing a child's gender and age.

From this tree, staff selected an ornament

which was presented to Volunteer Services in exchange for the child's "wish list."

Staff, their families, and some of the local church groups, bought, wrapped and brought the gifts to Volunteer Services for delivery to DCS.

Seventy children were helped that year. And they did not receive just one gift. They were given everything on their list - and more.

Many trips were made in vehicles packed

with gifts. A delivery truck was used to carry large items like bikes and large boxes you could not get into a regular auto. Soon, the DCS Office looked much like Santa's workshop.

On January 11 of this year, three GVDC employees accepted a plaque from the DCS honoring facility staff and volunteers for their special generosity.

And plans are already underway for Giving Tree 2001.



At the Giving Tree Awards Presentation (from left) are David Swatzell, Elizabeth Laws (DCS); Janice Roberts-Castle, Gayle Armstrong, Becky Bible (GVDC); Dan White (DCS) and GVDC Superintendent Henry Meece, Ph.D.

Scenes from the 88th Anniversary of the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, March 26-28, Nashville.

"Real Lives - for Persons with Mental Retardation" was presented by Carol Westlake (right) executive director of the Tennessee Disability Coalition in Nashville. The workshop focused on building community supports for people with mental retardation, getting services to people, supporting choice and self-determination and figuring out how pay for it. The session was sponsored by the Arc of Tennessee.



"Invisible Children's Project" presented by Ben Harrington (right), executive director of the Mental Health Association of Greater Knoxville and Larry Thompson, Ph.D., (left) psychologist for the DMHDD. This workshop profiled the pilot project that combines outreach, education and support programs focusing on children whose parents have a serious mental illness.



Contact the regional presidents to help plan, present and implement these conferences.

- September 5 TCSW Middle Region, The Jewish Temple, 5015 Harding Road, Nashville — regional president, (615) 741-2633
- October 24 TCSW North East Region, Tri Cities area — regional president, (423) 224-1730
- November 2 TCSW West Region, Memphis regional president, (901) 577-2500, ext. 149
- November 9 TCSW Middle East Region, UT Knoxville Student Center—regional president, (865) 637-1753
- November 14 TCSW South East Region, Chattanooga Trade and Convention Center regional president, (423) 209-6833
- November 29 TCSW Middle West Region, UT Agricultural Center, Jackson—regional president, (901) 424-7900

Happenings

- Kathryn O'Day has been named executive director of Knoxville's Child & Family Tennessee. O'Day has nearly 20 years of child and family experience. Her most recent position was as vice president of program development and evaluation for the Children's Home Society in Florida.
- Two professionals were named to the staff of Peninsula Behavioral Health in Knoxville. Doug Black, a clinically trained physical therapist is now Village administrator. He is a former director of the Patricia Neal Rehabilitation Center, Darryl Monday, past marketing representative for the Fort Sanders Therapy Centers, is now Village marketing coordinator.
- Kimbra Ippolito of Ridgeview Psychiatric Services recently began providing child and family counseling at the Children's Center of Scott County.

- Funeral services were held in February for Dr. George Ellis Copple, a veteran clinical psychologist on the staff of Vanderbilt University. Copple joined Vanderbilt in 1948 and is credited with helping to establish its graduate program in psychology. He was also an early president of the Tennessee Psychological Association.
- Terry Browning, Ph.D., a Millington psychological examiner, was recently named to the board of directors of the Brain Injury Association of Tennessee (BIAT). Browning is in practice at the Ray of Hope Christian Counseling Center. BIAT works to prevent injury through education and serves those with brain injury and their families.
- NAMI 2001 Annual Convention United by Hope, Working for Change July 11-15, 2001 Washington Hilton & Towers

- Memphis Boys Town, of Youth Villages in Memphis is building a school and a 62bed residential treatment facility in Bartlett. The two-phase project is expected to cost an estimated \$11.5 million.
- Cherokee Health Systems in Morristown recently opened a psychiatric practice in the medical office building adjoining the Jefferson Memorial Hospital. The program, founded in 1960, has offices in Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Sevier and Union counties.
- Melinda Waldrop, M.D., staff psychiatrist at Tennessee Christian Medical Center was recently named a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Technology Access Center Offers Telerehabilitation Pilot Project

There's an innovative service now available to Middle Tennesseans with disabilities - Telerehabilitation.

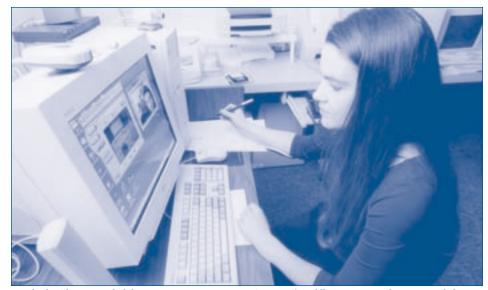
Available through the Technology Access Center of Middle Tennessee, a Tennessee Technology Access Project (TTAP), Telerehabilitation provides Vocational Rehabilitation clients with the assistance they need to complete their education and acquire job training.

Traditionally, there was need for a professional or the person requiring services to travel for a face to face encounter. This difficulty has been eliminated. Services are now available through audio and video telecommunications such as videophones, television set-top boxes or computers between the stations where the service provider and the client are located.

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), part of the U.S. Department of Education, funds a five-year Engineering and Research Center on Telerehabilitation.

Biomedical engineering and research projects are currently underway focusing on the development and application of telerehabilitation tools and services to diverse populations.

The pilot program on telerehabilitation at the Technology Access Center is an outgrowth of the findings of this research and personal participation with the staff in the Research Center.



Kimberly Clartson, rehabilitation engineer at Access Center of Middle Tennessee, demonstrated the telerehabilitation system.

The pilot calls for telerehabilitation to be established between the Access Center and the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, a program operated by the State Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Tennessee has over five assistive technology centers where clients are primarily served with staff on hand to assist with technology. Clients of Tennessee Rehabilitation go to these centers for day services or extended stays for training depending on need.

Program staffs are currently collaborating to develop methods and procedures for a delivery system between the assistive technology centers and these locations. The goal is to serve an increased number of clients where they live, attend school and work.

Instead of professionals traveling to the client, trained engineers travel to set up and test telecommunications equipment where the client is located.

TTAP's mission is to maintain a statewide program of technology-related assistance that is timely, comprehensive and consumer driven to ensure that all Tennesseans with disabilities have the information, services and devices that they need to make choices about where and how they spend their time as independently as possible.

Happenings

- John Schulte, M.D., recently became medical director for the behavioral medicine unit at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge. Schulte earned his medical degree at Vanderbilt and completed a residency in psychiatry at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Renovations are expected to be completed this spring on the tornado damaged Harriett Cohn Mental Health Workshop. The \$277,000 restoration will make it possible for Harriett Cohn to restart its program of providing persons with mental illness basic job training skills.
- NAMI-Tennessee announced in February that a new affiliate is planned in LaFollette. NAMI spokesperson, Peggy Pool reports the organization is interested in hearing from anyone who wants to participate. For more information, call 1-800-929-5609.

- Dr. David Mathis, a Tullahoma
 psychologist, is the editor of the Tennessee
 Psychologist, a publication of the
 Tennessee Psychological Association.
 Mathis manages publication content,
 reports on events relative to psychology in
 Tennessee, addresses current issues and
 covers legislative and legal news on the
 practice of psychology.
- Health care executive David Vandewater was named chairman of Behavioral Healthcare Corp. in Nashville in February. He replaced CEO Ed Stack. Vernon Westrich, senior vice president of operations for Behavior Healthcare, was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer.
- The Giles County Mental Health Center recently moved to 1002 Brindley Drive in Pulaski.

- Jeff Gold, in private practice at the Cookeville Medical Center, was recently named president-elect of the Cumberland Chapter of the Tennessee Counseling Association (TCA). The TCA is an affiliate of the American Counseling Association.
- Services were held in January for Thomas
 C. Binkley, former president of the
 Tennessee Bar Association and the
 Tennessee Mental Health Association.
 Friends report that Binkley, who grew up
 in Nashville, exhibited much compassion
 for the less fortunate throughout his life.
- Funeral services were held in October for Anne McGrew Brien, a leader of several health care organizations in Chattanooga. She served on the boards for the local and the state mental health associations. Brien also co-authored psychiatric articles with former commissioner, Dr. Nat T. Winston.

BlueCross/BlueShield Commits to TennCare; Program Offers Coverage to Uninsured Adults

In February, Governor Don Sundquist announced that BlueCross/BlueShield of Tennessee will remain in the TennCare program as a full risk managed care organization (MC0).

Effective in July, BlueCross/BlueShield will serve a maximum of 300,000 members in East Tennessee.

The state also reached agreements with Better Health Plans, a subsidiary of Three Rivers Holding, Inc., and Universal Care of Tennessee, which provides TennCare members with options in managed care organizations.

TennCare members have opportunities to choose during a period scheduled for April of this year. Several current MCOs are expected to expand coverage within each of the state's three grand regions.

In a subsequent action in March, the governor reported that the state agreed with advocacy groups to offer healthcare coverage to uninsured adults who have not had access. It also agreed to develop a process that ensures those on the program are eligible.

A release issued on March 12 said letters would be sent to "uninsured and uninsurable members who were disenrolled since July, 1998, asking them to reapply for the TennCare program. In some cases, coverage of medical expenses could be paid by the state retroactively."

The agreement settles the Rosen vs. Commissioner of Finance and Administration lawsuit. It also outlines steps for the state to remove ineligible uninsured and ineligible uninsurable enrollees from the TennCare program.

TennCare is the state managed care organization for 1.3 million Tennesseans who are uninsured, uninsurable or Medicaid eligible.



Pictured at the Tennessee Children's Advocacy Days 2001 are (from left) Pat Lawler, CEO of Youth Villages; Sheila Peters, Ph.D., Greene, Peters & Associates; Linda O'Neal, executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth; Elisabeth Rukeyser, DMHDD commissioner; and Larry Thompson, DMHDD director of Mental Health Children and Youth Programs.

Jaycees Make Camping Fun with Camp Discovery

In 1973, the Tennessee Jaycee Foundation adopted a bold approach to providing recreation opportunities to persons with mental or multi-handicapping disabilities.

The group collected contributions and secured the assistance of many individuals and corporations to provide camping opportunities on leased property.

Present day Camp Discovery is state of the art. It has a dining hall/assembly hall capable of seating 250 persons. Three large dormitories each provide 45 beds to make sleeping opportunities available. And a 1200-ft. infirmary is ready to take care of those little emergencies that are inevitable with life in the great outdoors.

The program can also boast of a caretaker's residence, counselors cabin, a newly completed hydrotherapy pool, 12

miles of paved roads and trails, plus a two story barn built with Jaycee manpower.

For additional Camp information 615-893-7663

An eight-week camping season begins in June and continues though mid August. Staff includes a camp director, assistant camp director, two full time registered nurses and 38 trained counselors.

Camp Discovery has a major goal - to help the individual increase social interaction abilities, language usage, motor skills - and just as important — to learn to enjoy leisure time activity.

The Tennessee Jaycees and the Jaycee Foundation are so proud of their camp, they'd like to invite anyone with a mental or multi-handicapping disability to beautiful Camp Discovery.



Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Office of Public Information & Education 11th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower 710 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243